

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008

SITUATION REPORT # 4

0800 Hours April 30, 2008

The next Situation Report will be May 1, 2008 at 0800 hours.

SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated rain, wind and tornadoes. **National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed an EF0 tornado in Gloucester and Mathews Counties, five EF1 tornadoes in the City of Colonial Heights and the counties of Brunswick, Surry, Isle of Wight, and Halifax. In addition, NWS confirmed a EF3 tornado in the City of Suffolk.** The Virginia Emergency Operations Center continues to receive reports of storm related damage from these jurisdictions and state agencies. Multiple injuries were reported but no storm related deaths have been confirmed. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#).

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with limited additional staffing. The VDEM Technical Support Unit (TSU) deployed to Suffolk Fire Station #3 on 29 April.

State of Emergency: At 1855 hours 28 April, Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine visited Suffolk on 29 April.

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time. FEMA Region III deployed a State Liaison Officer to the State EOC on 28 April. **The ERT-A Team was deployed on 29 April including Public Assistance and Individual Assistance staff from the Region III Disaster Assistance Division.**

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared:
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.
Isle of Wight declared a local emergency at 0830 hours 29 April.
Brunswick County declared a local emergency at 0930 hours 29 April.

Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.
City of Suffolk Open.

ESF 15 – External Affairs: Fielding local, national and international media inquiries. Coordinated Governor's visit to City of Suffolk. **Providing public information and awareness for tornado and disaster preparedness and promoting cash donations for casualties of the recent Virginia tornadoes.**

WEATHER

Forecast: **Wednesday, April 30, 2008:** Sunny, with a high near 66. Calm wind becoming north between 6 and 9 mph. **Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 45. Light south wind.
Thursday, May 1, 2008: Sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming south between 14 and 17 mph. **Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 55. South wind between 8 and 13 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison:

Region 1 Coordinator Wills assisted National Weather Service with flyovers of impacted localities. Region 3 Coordinator Cocker completed damage assessment and storm survey with Halifax County Emergency Management and NWS Blacksburg. Region 2 Coordinator Sterling and Region 5 Coordinator Twigg assisting City of Suffolk.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue Request for SAR cadaver dog teams to do sweeps of debris and damaged homes was completed 29 April with negative results. All SAR resources returned to quarters as of 1845 hour, 29 April. Civil Air Patrol completed two air missions one with NWS, VDEM Regional Coordinator, and local officials. The other involved taking digital images of affected areas. **All Civil Air Patrol (CAP) flyover missions have been completed as of 1830 hours, 29 April and are back at base. Aerial photos will be sent to the VDEM SAR Coordinator for evaluation.**

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Western Tidewater Health District (WTHD) staff at Suffolk EOC. VDH WTHD and local Red Cross activated to open shelters. Both Peninsula and Southside Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Strike Teams released. Three patients with storm related injuries were treated at Maryview Medical Center.

ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security:

Virginia State Police (VSP)
VSP Division 1 has 12 troopers assisting Suffolk Police Department with traffic detours. In addition, 54 tactical field force troopers staged at Suffolk Scale. Division 1 supplied 40 troopers and Division 3 supplied 16 troopers in relief at 1000 hours 29 April. Sgt. Kevin Barrick relieved the Suffolk City Public Information Officer at 0400 hours 29 April.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Animal Care and Control:

Virginia Beach SPCA
VBSPCA is working in partnership with Suffolk Animal Control to provide a Hotline information number for missing/found animals (Suffolk Dispatch at 757-923-2350), a temporary staging ground located at Suffolk Animal Control, 60 cages, an emergency trailer to be co-located with Humane Society of the United States forms missing/found animals temporary housing at animal control, a temporary collection site for missing/found animals and providing 24 trained staff. All animals will be “microchip” scanned. Reports of no large livestock issues at this time, many pets running at large.

ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations

Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) conference call was held on 29 April at 1700 hours. The following are highlights from the call: Operation Blessing reported providing 300 meals at the request of the American Red Cross on 29 April for emergency workers and responders. The Southern Conservatives have 6 debris/chain saw teams on standby to respond on 30 April to assist with debris removal. Baptist General Convention has child care teams on standby. The Salvation Army has 3 canteens operational. The Convoy of Hope is deploying teams to Suffolk to assist with debris removal. The United Methodist Conference volunteers are working with feeding stations and will continue through the week.

The American Red Cross ARC Southside Chapter is providing food at the Southpark Mall primarily to first responders. Many donations have been collected from surrounding churches, Wal-Mart, and local restaurants. Approximately 200 meals were served, 28 April and approximately 100 meals were prepared for 29 April. Three Emergency Response Vehicles responded 28 April. No ARC shelter has been opened or anticipated. A service center has been set up in Brunswick County to begin casework. Still waiting for additional disaster assessment information to determine anticipated casework needs. Suffolk County Chapter and Southeast Virginia Chapter Teams doing damage assessments. Identifying feeding site to provide meals today with VOAD partners. Currently working with Mercy Chefs and Operations Blessing and

surrounding churches. Planning to feed more than 500 people. Shelter at Kings Fork High School housed 51 people 28 April. Those wishing to make donations please see the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at www.vaemergency.com, "How You Can Help."

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

- ESF 1 – Transportation:** Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
VDOT reporting only two roads closed due to severe weather on 28 April, VA 10 at US 58 ramp and US 460 between Elephant Fork and Mead Parkway. These roads are City of Suffolk maintained.
- ESF 12 – Energy:** *As of 0730 hours 30 April, Dominion Virginia Power reported approximately 150 customers without power system wide; 130 in the Southeastern area.*

RECOVERY SECTION (ESF 14)

Initial Damage Assessment Report:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
Colonial Heights, City of	\$2,000,000	\$0
Halifax County	\$500,000	\$0
Isle of Wight County	\$184,000	\$0
Portsmouth	\$25,000	\$0
Suffolk, City of	\$21,382,195	\$0
Brunswick County	\$650,000	\$0
Total	\$24,741,195	\$0

LOGISTICS SECTION

- ESF 7 – Resource** VDEM is supporting four active resource requests. Four requests have been completed and 2 requests have been cancelled. ***All localities have been given access to the State Emergency Services contract.***

PLANNING SECTION

- ESF 5 – Emergency** Drafting Governor's Executive Order, preparing Situation Reports and Spot Briefs, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness
- ESF 14 –Long-term Community Recovery and Mitigation** ***The Commonwealth will be requesting Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) to begin Thursday May 1, 2008 for selected disaster impacted areas.***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

- City of Suffolk:** Sentara Obici Hospital reported to be fully operational with some minor damage. Sentara Obici Hospital treated 70 patients only 3 hospitalized. Chesapeake General Hospital and Maryview Hospital treated and released an unknown number of patients. ***Region 5 Coordinator Twigg remains on scene. There are 407 homes total that have been tagged as damaged.*** One shelter is open at Kings Fork High School. Route 58 is open, but 460 at Route 10 is still blocked. ***Kings Highway between Nansemond Highway and Sleepy Hollow closed. All schools open except Elephant's Fork Elementary School.*** A 6 station call center has been established for citizen calls at the City Recreational Department. Donations are being channeled through the Red Cross. Tetanus vaccines are being provided by the local public health agency for responders and some others. ***Jack Brown, lead for the Fairfax Incident Management Team advised they arrived in Suffolk at 1900 hours 29 April. They will assist the Suffolk City Manager in developing an Incident Action Plan for the next operational period. Members include 2 – Arlington County, 2 - Fairfax County, and 1 - Fairfax City. A Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 30***

April at 7:00 PM for the public to discuss debris issues, insurance issues and future recovery efforts. The City of Suffolk/VA National Guard Armory is one of several locations being investigated for a Disaster Recovery Center.

- York County:*** The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical System (MMRS) Strike Team was requested by the City of Suffolk to assist with tornado related medical needs. This response includes the activation of both the Southside Logistics Cache (City of Norfolk) and the Peninsula Logistics Cache (York County) and the Peninsula Communications Cache (York County). All units responded.
- City of Chesapeake:*** Deployed five engines, one ladder truck, one tactical rescue vehicle, a Battalion Chief, three Medic units and an EMS officer to the City of Suffolk under mutual aid. Fire Department sent one small bus and 15 passenger vans to support Suffolk. HazMat 5 is currently serving as mobile command post in City of Suffolk.
- City of Colonial Heights:*** ***Major damage reported in and around the Southpark Mall area estimated at \$2,000,000.***
- Isle of Wight County:*** ***Fourteen homes were reported with minor to moderate damage with total cost damage assessment of \$184,000.***
- Halifax County:*** ***Region 3 Coordinator Cocker assisted NWS Blacksburg and local Emergency Management with storm survey and confirmed an EF1 tornado caused major damage to two homes, minor damage to one home and slight damage to three homes.*** All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed. The estimated damage to private property is \$500,000.
- Brunswick County:*** Region I Coordinator Wills reported that the flyover was completed and NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF1 tornado touched down with wind between 86-100 MPH. It had a 1 mile path that was 250 yards wide. Initial Damage Assessment conducted by Local Emergency Management Officials evening of 28 April. ***14 homes have been damaged and the estimate of damage is \$650,000.*** There is substantial tree damage. No injuries. American Red Cross staged at Lawrenceville Airport. Displaced individuals are being put in hotels. No plans to open a shelter at this time. NWS Assessment Team was on scene 28 April and confirmed an EF1 tornado in Brunswick County on 28 April.
- City of Portsmouth:*** Reports of minor damage in the Churchland (northeastern) section of the city. Per mutual aid request, sent 2 engine trucks, 1 ladder truck and 1 medic to the City of Suffolk on 28 April. Four members deployed as part of the MMRS Strike Team. Portsmouth Amateur Radio-ES (PARES) deployed 9 members to Suffolk. City is currently working on damage assessment.
- City of Newport News:*** Providing 40 police officers (2 shifts of 20 officers) to the City of Suffolk. Officers have been deployed from Newport News to Suffolk in support of emergency operations.

Prepared by: Terry Hebert, Deputy Planning Chief
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Michael Nelson, VERT Coordinator